

1 5. (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein
2 during needling of the batt in the needlefelting machine the batt is curved in the
3 direction of its travel through the needlefelting machine.

1 6. (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 5, wherein the
2 needleboard is correspondingly curved.

1 7. (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein the
2 needlefelting machine comprises two needleboards at respective locations which
3 are mutually displaced along the direction of travel of the batt through the
4 needlefelting machine.

1 8. (Amended) A needlefelt as claim in claim 7, wherein the
2 two needleboards are respectively disposed to needle the batt from mutually
3 opposite sides of the batt.

1 9. (Amended) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 8 wherein the
2 needlefelt incorporates a scrim, and wherein the first of said two needleboards in
3 the direction of travel of the batt through the needlefelting machine is disposed to
4 needle the layered combination of batt and scrim from the side opposite to the
5 scrim.

Please cancel claims 20 and 21.

Please add the following new claims 22-25:

1 22. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein
2 said batt of fibres is juxtaposed to a scrim prior to being passed through said
3 needlefelting machine.

1 23. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 22,
2 wherein said batt of fibres prior to being juxtaposed to said scrim is subjected to
3 a preliminary needling step through a needlefelting machine to provide a partial
4 consolidation and fibres entanglement of said batt.

1 24. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 23,
2 wherein during said preliminary needling step said batt is curved in its direction
3 of travel through the needlefelting machine.

1 25. (Newly Added) A needlefelt as claimed in claim 4, wherein
2 said needlefelt has a fibre density which varies across its thickness.

REMARKS

I. Election/Restriction

The applicant wishes to confirm the withdrawal of the election of Claims 10 and 11 as part of Group II.

II. Information Disclosure Statement

The applicant wishes to confirm that only one Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) was filed. A primary IDS was filed together with